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Orinda sets up Downtown Development subcommittee

By Sora O'Doherty

With no regularly scheduled meetings, the newly formed Downtown Development subcommittee will meet on an "as needed" basis for the purpose of providing assistance to city staff as they move into the project. The subcommittee, which is modeled after the earlier Wilder subcommittee, will consist of newest council member Inga Miller, who will liaison with Creeks of Orinda and the Orinda Association, and Mayor Eve Phillips. It won't be the first time Miller and Phillips have been on the same team: the two ran track together at Miramonte High School.

The subcommittee will be on hand to help staff as they begin the process of formulating questions and working with the two organizations the city council has enlisted to work on downtown development: the Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel and Mainstreet America.

In other council activity, the council decided that the full city council will interview four recruiting firms to select one to find the city's next city manager. They were scheduled to conduct the interviews Feb. 7. Acting to narrow a list prepared by staff, the council selected three staff favorites and one more: Avery & Associates, Bob Murray & Associates, Peckham & McKenney and Ralph Anderson & Associates. The council requested that the person who will be in charge of the recruitment be present for each 15 minute interview. The council expects to spend in the neighborhood of \$22,500 to \$28,000 on the search for a new city manager.

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